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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Brenda Pomerance

Filed:

April 5, 2000

Art Unit:

TBA

Serial No.:

09/543,049

Title:

AUTOMATED ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Before its initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as below:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 6, line 8, change "eliminate" to - - filter - -.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1, 6 and 9 by rewriting the same as below:

-- 1. (amended) A method of automated alternative dispute resolution, comprising automatically receiving a communication from a party, the communication being a

processing the communication, and

portion of a pre-defined dispute resolution process

[returning] providing the processed communication to the party.

6. (amended) A method of automatically providing a comment relating to ansautomated

alternative dispute resolution process,/comprising:

determining that an action or inaction by a subject has occurred in a proglefined dispute resolution process, and

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